

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 /117 W
-----033547 061720Z /47

R 061400Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4790
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 5138

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, XA, SG
SUBJECT: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES,
KHARTOUM, JULY 1978 - SENEGAL

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REF: (A) STATE 163024, (B) STATE 155074

1. HERE FOLLOWS RUNDOWN OF SENEGALESE ATTITUDE AND POSITIONS
GOING INTO OAU MINISTERIAL AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES AT KHARTOUM.
THIS REPORT IS BASED ON TALKS BETWEEN CHARGE AND GOS SOURCES
IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY.

2. SENEGAL WILL BE SENDING A LARGE AND IMPORTANT DELEGATION, 21 PEOPLE ACCORDING TO DIRECTEUR DE CABINET YOUSSEPH SYLLA, RANKING PROFESSIONAL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. MINISTERIAL DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BABACAR BA AND WILL INCLUDE SENEGALESE AMBASSADORS FROM UN, CAIRO, AND ADDIS.

3. ZIONISM AS RACISM.

--- MENTIONING RESURFACING OF Z-R ISSUE AT DAKAR ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN APRIL AND AT HAVANA MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BOARD IN MAY, CHARGE EMPHASIZED DAMAGE-MAKING POTENTIAL OF THIS ISSUE IN UN SYSTEM AND US POLICY OF NONPARTICIPATION IN ANY UN ACTIVITIES TIED IN WITH IT. CITED WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AT GENEVA IN AUGUST AS EXAMPLE. SENEGALESE PRESIDENCY SOURCE WAS COMPLETELY UNYIELDING ON THIS ISSUE. ON ISRAEL HE SAID, SENEGAL DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN JUDAISM AND ZIONISM. JUDAISM WAS A RELIGION, DESERVING OF RESPECT AS ONE OF THE GREAT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. ZIONISM WAS AN EXPANSIONIST POLITICAL MOVEMENT AIMED AT RECREATING AN ISRAELI EMPIRE WHICH ALLEGEDLY EXISTED AT THE TIME OF THE BIBLE. SOURCE INSISTED THAT EVERY ACT OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT REENFORCED VALIDITY OF THE ZIONISM-RACISM CHARGE. CONFIDENTIAL

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ISRAEL WAS CLEARING OUT ARABS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ORDER TO MAKE WAY FOR ISRAELI SETTLERS. THE ENTIRE BASIS FOR ISRAELI TREATMENT OF ARABS WAS RACIAL. SOURCE THOUGHT THAT IF THIS ISSUE CAME UP AT KHARTOUM, MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF THEIR DEPENDENCY AND AID FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER KEY ARAB DONORS, WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF ANY ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTIONS. AMBASSADOR SYLLA OF MFA HAD QUITE A DIFFERENT VIEW. WITH SOME FEELING, HE SAID THAT THESE WERE AFRICAN CONFERENCES AND THAT SENEGAL WOULD WORK TO SEE THEY DEALT WITH AFRICAN ISSUES. ZIONISM-RACISM WAS NOT AN AFRICAN ISSUE. SYLLA DID NOT THINK OAU WOULD PASS ANY EXTREME RESOLUTIONS ON THE Z-R ISSUE.

4. MIDDLE EAST.

---BOTH MFA AND PRESIDENCY SOURCES CONSIDERED THE HANDLING OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AT KHARTOUM WOULD BE DOMINATED BY MODERATES AND NOT BY RADICALS. SYLLA EXPLAINED THAT RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING US AND INDIRECTLY CRITICIZING EGYPT, COMING

OUT OF DAKAR ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE
IN APRIL 1978, WERE DUE TO THE AGGRESSIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 5138

AND EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN WAGED BY THE PLO. SENEGAL
HAD TRIED HARD TO DAMPEN DOWN THE LANGUAGE OF
THE RESOLUTIONS, BUT MODERATE STATES SUCH AS
SENEGAL, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND KUWAIT WERE
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UNABLE TO PREVAIL OVER PLO TACTICS. PLO WAS OBVIOUSLY USING DAKAR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AS ANOTHER SPRINGBOARD TO FORCE RECOGNITION, PARTICULARLY FROM THE USA. PRESIDENCY SOURCE THOUGHT SITE OF OAU MEETINGS, I.E., KHARTOUM WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN NATURE OF ANY RESOLUTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST. HE EXPECTED RESOLUTIONS TO BE MODERATE AND GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE TOWARDS FINDING JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO ME PROBLEM.

5. SAHARA.

SENEGALESE SOURCES WERE OF VIEW THAT ALGERIA WOULD MAKE STRONG EFFORTS TO PUT SAHARA QUESTION ON ITS AGENDA, BUT THEY DOUBTED ALGERIA COULD GARNER ENOUGH VOTES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE.

6. CANARY ISLANDS.

---SENEGALESE POSITION IS THAT IT CONSIDERS CANARY ISLANDS TO BE AFRICAN, BUT FULLY RECOGNIZES SPANISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANARIES. ALGERIA AND LIBYA WERE USING THE CANARIES AS A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC TO SPITE SPAIN OVER ITS HANDLING OF THE EX-SPANISH SAHARA. SENEGALESE DID NOT THINK THE OAU WOULD TAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT ACTION CONCERNING CANARIES.

7. SHABA II AND AFRICAN TROOP PRESENCE IN ZAIRE.

---AS ONE OF THE MAJOR AFRICAN CONTRIBUTORS OF TROOPS TO ZAIRE, SENEGAL CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO MAKE A SPIRITED DEFENSE OF ITS ACTION IN RESPONDING TO THE SECURITY NEEDS OF AN IMPORTANT FELLOW OAU

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MEMBER. AT KHARTOUM, SENEGAL CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR PROGRESS ON AFRICAN SECURITY PROBLEMS THROUGH REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THE CEAO NONAGGRESSION AND REGIONAL DEFENSE PACT. PRESIDENCY SOURCE COMMENTED THAT WHILE SENEGAL AND OTHER FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE FULLY JUSTIFIED IN THEIR RESPONSE OF SENDING TROOPS TO ZAIRE, THE WHOLE OPERATION HAD BEEN PLAYED ON THE WRONG STAGE. INSTEAD OF KEY DECISIONS COMING OUT OF AFRICA, THEY HAD ORIGINATED IN PARIS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHY ANGLO-PHONE STATES LIKE NIGERIA AND TANZANIA WERE CRITICAL AND SUSPICIOUS.

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